

Permanent Secretary
John-Paul Marks



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

E: permanentsecretary@gov.scot

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

By email to: fpa.committee@parliament.scot

28 May 2024

Dear Convener,

On Thursday 23 May the UK Government confirmed the pre-election period would take effect from 00:01, 25 May 2024; with the election to follow on 4 July.

Consistent with the Civil Service Code and the published [UK General Election guidance](#) and [Scottish Government guidance](#) during this pre-election period, we should sustain the proper functioning of the current Government and delivery of essential business; continuing to uphold the highest standards of propriety, integrity and impartiality in this pre-election period.

I consider there to be a clear case for deferral of strategic policies due to be published in the pre-election period, given this could influence the General Election. This advice has been published alongside a Government Initiated Question (GIQ) to inform the Scottish Parliament of the deferral.

In accordance with the guidance, I have considered the case for deferral of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, the draft Tax Strategy and the Infrastructure Investment Pipeline annual report and pipeline review in line with this guidance and have advised the First Minister that these publications should be delayed.

In line with this position, the Scottish Fiscal Commission agrees that publication of their economic and fiscal forecasts should be deferred. Publication on a revised timeline will also allow the Scottish Government to respond to new fiscal positions from an incoming UK Government, recognising that these could be material to the medium-term fiscal and economic outlooks.

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The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government will write to you as soon as possible to agree a new publication date. I would like to thank the Committee for its continued engagement and flexibility during this period.

Best Wishes,

JOHN-PAUL MARKS
PERMANENT SECRETARY

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